



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6937



Introduced by Representative Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
CREATING EIGHT (8) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, TO BE DESIGNATED AS SPECIAL
COURTS FOR DRUGS CASES, IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION
TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO,
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14
(K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
“THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cagayan de Oro City, known as the “City of Golden Friendship,” is the capital of the province of Misamis Oriental. Its accessible location makes it the “Gateway to Northern Mindanao,” serving as the regional hub for commerce, transportation, and tourism for Region X (Northern Mindanao).

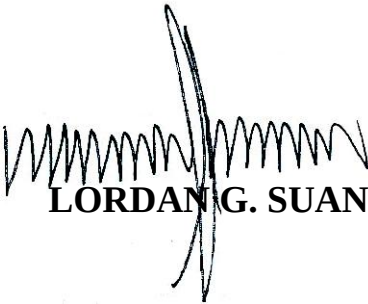
The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) released a census of population and housing on 20 August 2021 entitled “Highlights of the Region X (Northern Mindanao) Population 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH),” indicating that Cagayan de Oro City is the most populous and has the highest population growth rate among all the cities in the region.

All the factors mentioned above contribute significantly to the congestion of courts in the city, the consequential delay in the resolution of cases, and the impairment of people’s constitutionally enshrined right to speedy disposition of

cases. According to the Supreme Court's statistical data on courts in Cagayan de Oro City dated 30 June 2023, there is a need for eight (8) additional Special Courts for Drugs Cases.

This measure will establish eight (8) additional Special Courts for Drugs Cases in Cagayan de Oro City to remedy the dire situation.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



LORDAN G. SUAN



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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Eight (8) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court
2 in the Tenth Judicial Region, to be designated as Special Courts for Drugs
3 Cases, are hereby created and stationed in the City of Cagayan de Oro,
4 Province of Misamis Oriental.
- 5 The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly
6 created branches of the Regional Trial Court.



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1 **SEC. 2.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with
2 the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the
3 Court's program the operationalization of the additional branch of the Regional
4 Trial Court in the City of Cagayan de Oro, Province of Misamis Oriental.

5 **SEC. 3.** The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act,
6 including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and
7 emoluments for judges and court personnel, court operations under
8 maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), and provisions for Halls
9 of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff, shall be
10 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

11 **SEC. 4.** Section 14 (k) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known
12 as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws,
13 rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed,
14 or modified accordingly

15 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
16 the Official Gazette or on a website provided for by law.

Approved,